

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-07 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-13 AID-05 SCCT-01

SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /101 W
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O R 171246Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9161

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 17 SYRIAN MEDIA DENOUNCE JUMBLATT FOR IMPEDING
CEASE-FIRE IMPLEMENTATION

1. AL-BAATH REPORTED THAT DURING RECENT TALKS BETWEEN SYRO-
PALESTINIAN DELEGATIONS IN DAMASCUS, "PALESTINIAN
DELEGATION POINTED OUT IT IS CONVINCED OF IMPORTANCE OF
ADOPTING URGENT MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT SYRO-PALESTINIAN
ACCORD AND TO SET MEETING OF TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE."
HOWEVER, DESPITE PALESTINIAN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE JUMBLATT
TO ATTEND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF
PROGRESSIVE FRONT JUMBLATT REFUSED. CONSEQUENTLY, MEASURES
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TO OMPLEMENT CEASE-FIRE STYMIED. ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION PRESENTED NO NEW PROPOSALS TO SYRIANS.

2. MEDIA REPORTED CONTINUATION OF CLASHES YESTERDAY IN MANY LEBANESE DISTRICTS, PARTICULARLY SININ. PRESS NOTED SPLIT IN LAA FORCES OF AHMAD KHATIB AND ARREST OF SOME LAA OFFICERS.

3. PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI PREVIOUS DAY RECEIVED LEBANESE MINISTER OF ECONOMY ADIL USAYRAN.

4. PRESS GAVE PROMINENT ATENTION TO PRESIDENT ASAD'S MEETING IN COLOMBO WITH PRESIDENT TITO, AND REPORTED ASAD WILL PROBABLY DELIVER SPEECH TODAY.

5. SAIQA COMMANDER FORMERLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EASTERN SECTOR OF BEIRUT, BILAL AL-HASAN, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN CHTAURA IN WHICH HE LAID BLAME FOR TELL ZAATAR DISASTER ON "DEVIATIONIST PALESTINIAN LEADERS." HE CLAIMED THAT MANY SAIQA SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED IN CAMP BY THOSE DECEIVED BY THEIR PALESTINIAN LEADERS. HE REITERATED STANDARD LINE THAT LEBANESE CRISIS UTILIZED AS COVER FOR SINAI AGREEMENT.

6. PRESS NOTED OPTIMISM EXPRESSED IN KUWAITI RAI AL-AMM REGARDING CURRENT SYRO-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE.

7. AL-THAWRAH COLUMNIST CHARGED THAT "COLLUSION BETWEEN EGYPTIAN REGIME AND ZIONIST ENEMY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL SPLITS, WEAKNESSES AND DIVISION IN ARAB RANKS." TISHRIIN WRITER ASSERTED SYRIA ACTING IN SELF-DEFENSE IN RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN ATTACKS AGAINST SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD AND SYRIAN REGIME. SAID SYRIA TRYING TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS AND RENEWED FOCUS ON BATTLE OF LIBERATING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. HE CONCLUDED BY ACCUSING EGYPT OF "SEEKING TO CUT ALL BRIDGES WITH SYRIA" AFTER CONCLUDING UNWRITTEN ALLIANCE WITH IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM.

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8. COMMENT: PRESS PORTRAYAL LEAVES IMPRESSION SYRO-PALESTINIAN TALKS AT DEAD END. WHILE JUMBLATT BLAMED FOR IMPEDING PRGORESS, IT ALSO UNQUESTIONNABLE THAT ABSENCE FROM SYRIA OF ASAD, KHADDAM AND QADDUMI AT COLOMBO HAS CAUSED TEMPORARY ABEYANCE IN DAMASCUS TALKS. WE NOTE REPORTED ASAD-TITO MEETING AT COLOMBO AND ASSUME ASAD PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN YUGOSLAV SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICY IN LEBANON AT NAC.

BELIEVE SYRIAN PRESIDENT MAY USE OCCASION OF SPEECH TO
DELIVER ANOTHER PUBLIC DEFENSE OF SYRIAN ACTIONS IN
LEBANON.
MURPHY

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